

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 235818 TOSEC 270609

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 235818 TOSEC 270609

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 4326 ACTION NAIROBI LONDON

INFO SECSTATE 23 SEP 76

QUOTE S E C R E T PRETORIA 4326

NODIS - CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR

REF: SECTO 27280, 27303

1. I SAW BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT THIS MORNING TO CHECK ON REPORTED INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN BRITISH MESSAGE ON THE RHODESIAN BLIND NOTE OF SEPT 22 AND MINE WHICH I ASSUME ARE THE ONES REFERRED TO IN SECTO 27303. FROM WHAT SCOTT SHOWED ME, HE HAD MADE SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT POINTS IN THE NOTE BUT HE BELIEVES THERE IS NO RPT NO DISCREPANCY IN BASIC ASSESSMENT THAT SMITH WOULD GO THROUGH WITH COMMITMENTS.

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WM ONE OF SCOTT'S COMMENTS RELATED TO THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF THE NOTE (PARA 1D OF PRETORIA 4309). IN THIS HE OBSERVED THAT THE RHODESIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD NKOMO RETURNING TO SALISBURY SEEMED MORE RELAXED IN THE NOTE THAN IN THE REQUEST CONVEYED THROUGH FOURIE (PRETORIA 4299) THAT US AND UK USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO DISSUADE HIM FROM RETURNING ON FRIDAY.

3. ANOTHER COMMENT HAD TO DO WITH SEEMINGLY EQUIVOCAL LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN SIXTH PARAGRAPH (PARA 1F OF PRETORIA 4309) ABOUT "ANY STATEMENT THAT MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE MADE ON FRIDAY". SCOTT TIED THE AMBIGUITY TO THE FACT THAT THE IMPORTANT PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WAS STILL PENDING AND OBSERVED THAT ASSUMING THAT MEETING GOES RIGHT, HE (SCOTT) TAKES IT THAT SMITH IS IN THE BAG WHETHER OR NOT HE GETS A SATISFACTORY ANSWER ON SUPPLY OF ARMS. I WAS BOTHERED BY THE WORDING OF SIXTH PARAGRAPH AND ASKED FOURIE AND HAWKINS LAST NIGHT WHETHER ONE COULD READ THIS TO MEAN THAT PERHAPS A STATEMENT MIGHT NOT BE MADE TOMORROW UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. BOTH SAID THEY REGARDED PHRASEOLOGY AS REFLECTION OF FACT THAT CAUCUS MEETING REMAINED TO BE HELD BUT BOTH EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SMITH IS NOW COMMITTED TO PLAN AND WOULD CARRY CAUCUS WITH HIM AS HE HAD DONE CABINET AND MILITARY.

4. IF YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF BRITISH MESSAGE OTHER THAN THE ONE DESCRIBED, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SO AS TO BE ABLE TO CHECK WHETHER SCOTT IS LEVELLING WITH ME.

5. I MADE POINTS TO SCOTT CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF SECTO 27280. HE INDICATED HE DOES ON OCCASION MAKE LATERAL DISTRIBUTION OF HIS CABLES BUT ALWAYS MARKED "ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR". I EMPHASIZED SERIOUS RISKS OF PUTTING INFO ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS IN HANDS OF PEOPLE NOT ATUNED TO EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT MATTER AND IMPERATIVE NECESSITY FOR INFO NOT RPT NOT TO BE USED PUBLICLY.
BOWDLER
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